

Senate Resolution 961

By: Senators Thomas of the 54th, Hawkins of the 49th and Goggans of the 7th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Georgia physicians and recognizing February 4, 2010, as Patient-Centered
2 Physician Coalition of Georgia Day at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Patient-Centered Physicians Coalition is made up of Georgia's most
4 committed physicians who care for Georgia families and include members of the Georgia
5 Academy of Family Physicians, the Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics,
6 the Georgia Chapter of the American College of Physicians, the Georgia Osteopathic
7 Medical Association, and the Georgia Obstetrician/Gynecologists Society; and

8 WHEREAS, private practice physician offices create more than 180,000 jobs in Georgia,
9 provide over \$10 billion in personal income, create nearly \$20 billion in total economic
10 activity, and generate more than \$2.7 billion annually in state and local government
11 revenues; and

12 WHEREAS, there is a decreasing number of medical school graduates entering primary care
13 specialties, including a ten-year decrease from 20 percent to 4 percent between 1999 and
14 2009 in family medicine and a 13 percent decrease in pediatrics, despite state population
15 increases of over 18.3 percent in the same time period; and

16 WHEREAS, according to the United Health Foundation and the American Public Health
17 Association, Georgia is ranked 43rd in overall health and 47th in determinants of health
18 including access to primary care, immunizations, and insurance; and

19 WHEREAS, in 2006, the Georgia Board for Physician Workforce reported deficiencies in
20 one or more of the core physician specialties including family medicine, pediatrics, internal
21 medicine, and obstetrics/gynecology; and

22 WHEREAS, decreased physician reimbursement rates have been proven to increase costs by
23 limiting access and diverting patients to more expensive sites for care such as emergency
24 rooms and often more costly unnecessary treatment modalities; and

25 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is committed to providing medical assistance promptly and
26 assuring that payments to physicians are sufficient to enlist enough providers to care for our
27 families; and

28 WHEREAS, the contributions and efforts of the physicians and the individuals working in
29 their practices to increase the overall health and wellness of Georgians and stimulate
30 economic growth are applauded.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
32 recognize Georgia physicians and their practices as critical to the overall health and
33 economic vitality of this state and declare February 4, 2010, as Patient-Centered Physicians
34 Coalition of Georgia Day at the state capitol.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
36 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Georgia Academy of Family
37 Physicians, Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Georgia Chapter of the
38 American College of Physicians, Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association, and Georgia
39 Obstetrician/Gynecologists Society.